GLOBAL ONLINE COURSE ON
NEXT GENERATION TRADE FACILITATION 2026

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UN trade & development UNCTAD

Live session 1
2 June,18:00 (UTC+7)



Carmela Rivera
Port of Subic, the Philippines



Jian WANG
University of International Business and Economics, China



John David
ASYCUDA, UNCTAD

Welcome remarks



Yann Duval
ESCAP

Live session 2
3 June, 18:00 (UTC+7)



Salamat Ali
FAO



Macarena Torres Rossel
Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, World Economic Forum



Ingrid Huapaya
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, Peru



Benson Mutuku
TradeMark Africa



Clariesse Chan-Proeller
UNCTAD



Celine Bacrot
UNCTAD

Live session 3
4 June, 18:00 (UTC+7)



Miryang Kim
Korea Customs Service



Carla Valle-Klann
UNEP



Khan Salehin
CITES Secretariat



Soo Hyun Kim
ESCAP

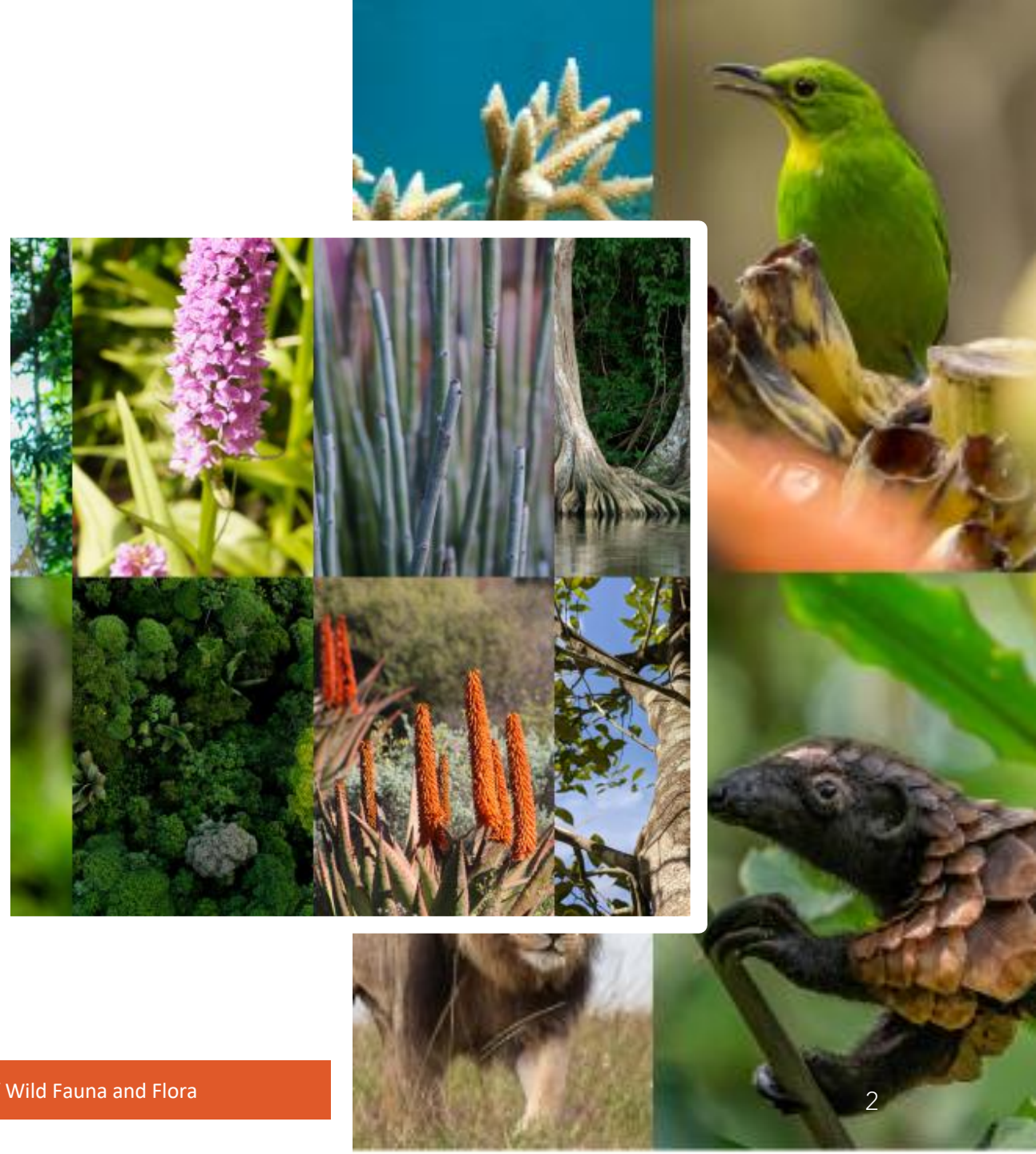
CITES

ECITES PERMIT SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE TRADE IN WILDLIFE

Salehin Khan, CITES Secretariat

OUTLINE

- Context
- E-CITES – What and Why
- Current Status
- Challenges
- Tools



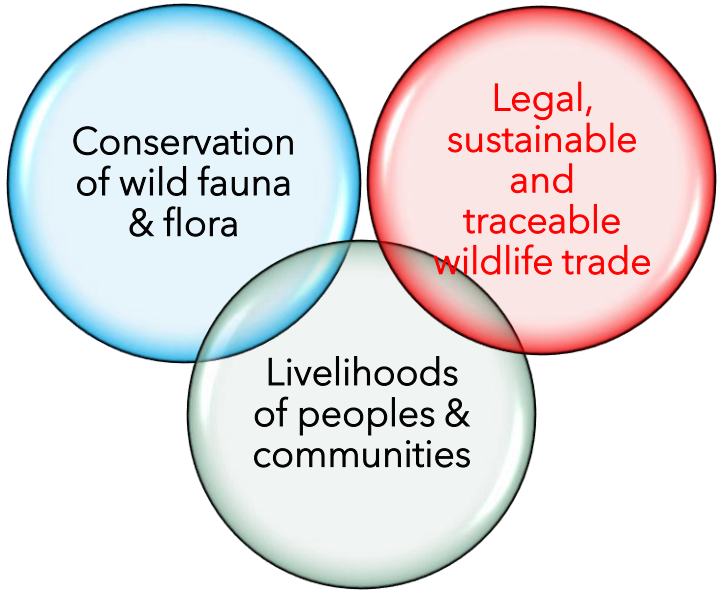
CITES: AT THE CROSS-SECTION OF TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)

Multilateral Environmental Agreement.

Binding trade and environment agreement for **185 Parties** to control trade in ~**41,000 species** of animals and plants (live, dead, parts & derivatives).

CITES objectives



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CITES 50

50 years of partnerships for wildlife

GLOBAL TRADE OF CITES SPECIES - IN FIGURES

- CITES Parties recorded over 25 million transactions

CITES Trade Database: http://trade.cites.org/

- Trade in individual species or derivative products valued in the millions, even billions of US dollars.
- Wildlife (legal) trade – USD 220 billions (estimated)

Queen conch:
$60 million/year



Pythons
$1billion/year



Bigleaf Mahogany
$33million/year



MANY ECONOMIC SECTORS RELY ON WILDLIFE

Food			Fish, wild meat, plants
Building/ furniture			Wood, timber & other materials
Health & Beauty			Pharmaceuticals, vaccines, cosmetics, fragrances
Leisure			Musical instruments, pets, ornamental plants and fish
Fashion			Leather, furs, fibers, jewelry
Tourism			Museums, souvenirs, botanical gardens

ILLEGAL TRADE: A LUCRATIVE CRIME



OBJECTIVE OF E-CITES

- To improve the implementation of the Convention by using modern Information and Communication Technologies to simplify compliant trade and to combat illegal trade. It is important to note that digitalization of procedures and electronic information exchange is not an objective in itself, but rather **a tool** to simplify and improve the work of Management Authorities and other agencies to implement the Convention.



E-CITES PERMITTING SYSTEM

What is eCITES permitting system?

Digitalized permitting systems for CITES Permits and Certificates.

The scope of eCITES includes electronic application and issuance of CITES permits, control and authentication of CITES permits (e.g. in borders), reporting (as in CITES annual reports) as well as exchange of permits between the Parties.



Electronic Permit Issuance



Electronic Border Control



Electronic Reporting



Electronic Permit Data Exchange



HOW DOES E-CITES HELP THE PARTIES?

Legality:

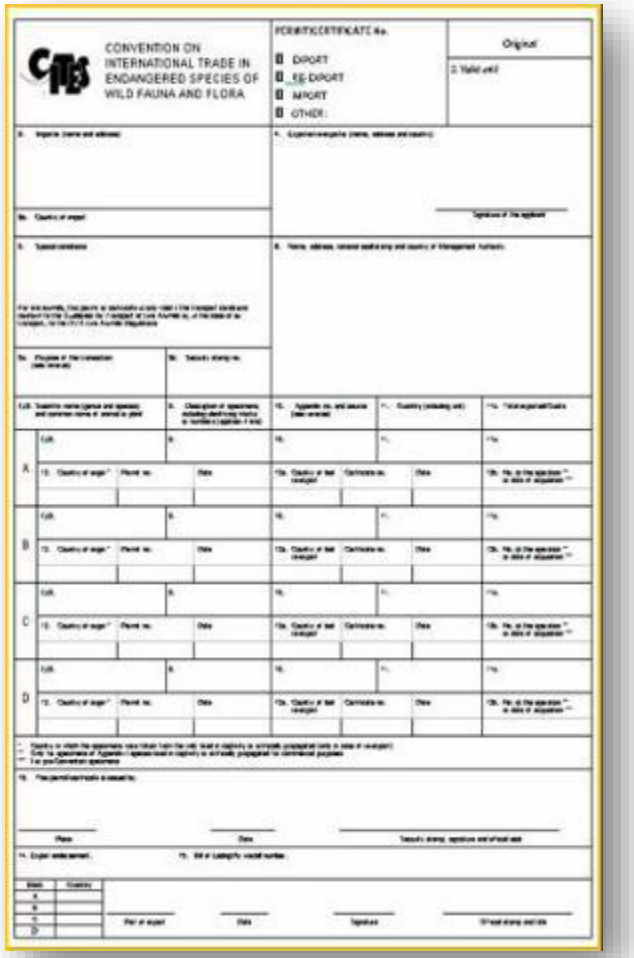
Origin & sourcing, (inter-) national legislation

Sustainability

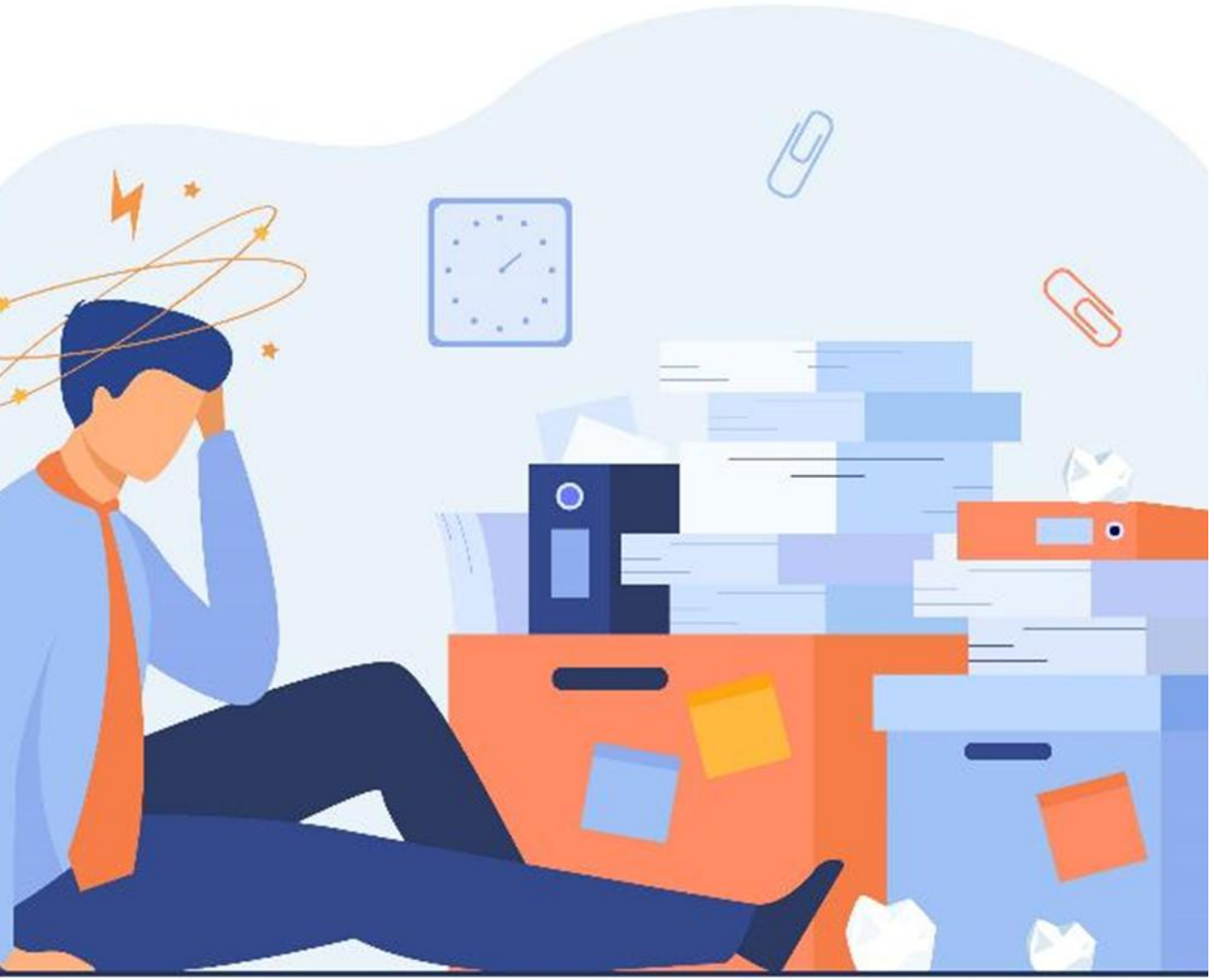
Non-detriment findings, quota

Traceability

Trade data & transaction details, confiscations, trader details



GENERATION OF STATISTICS

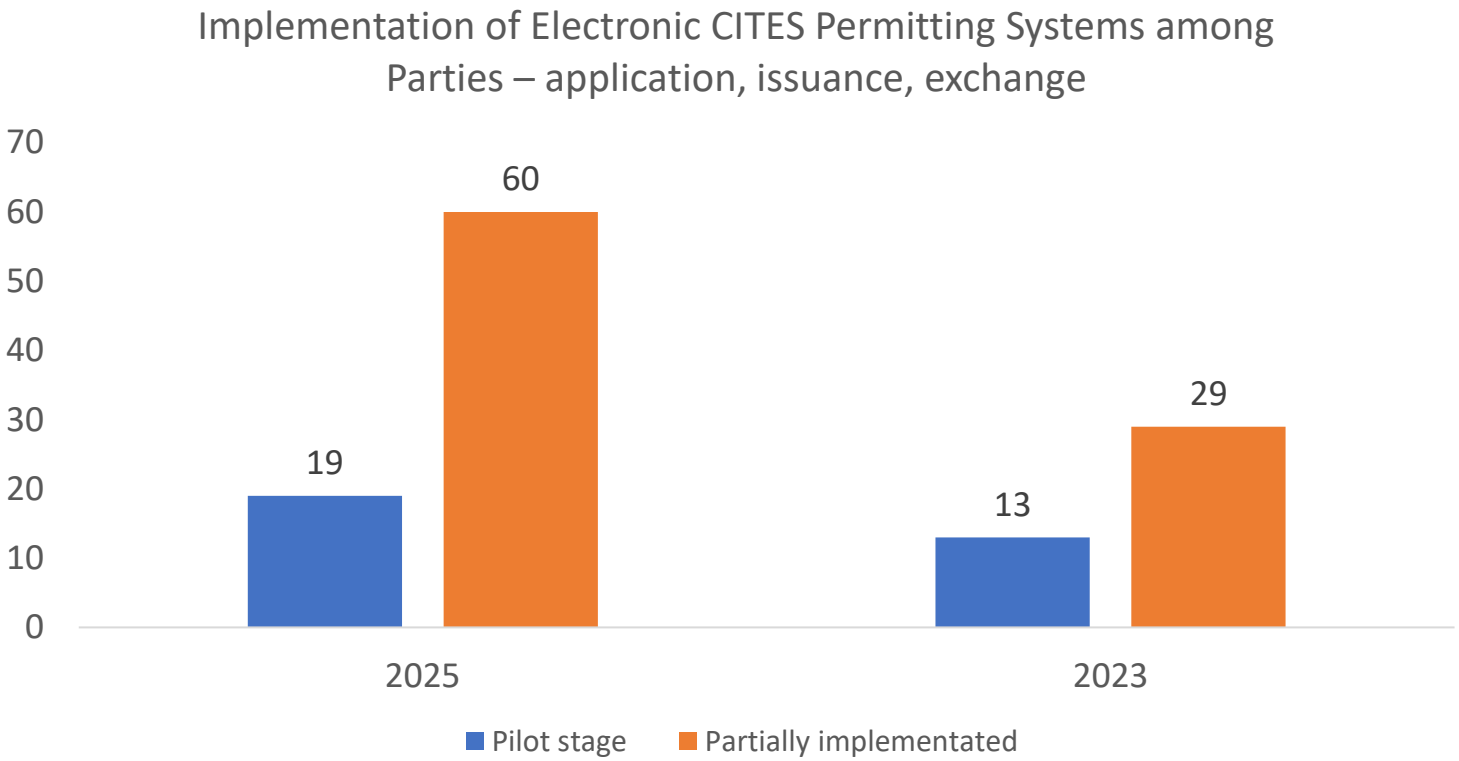


- **Legality** (Legal Acquisition Findings)**?**
- **Sustainability** (Non-détriment Findings)**?**
- **Traceability?**
- **Enforcement?**
- **Annual Reporting?**

- **DATA**

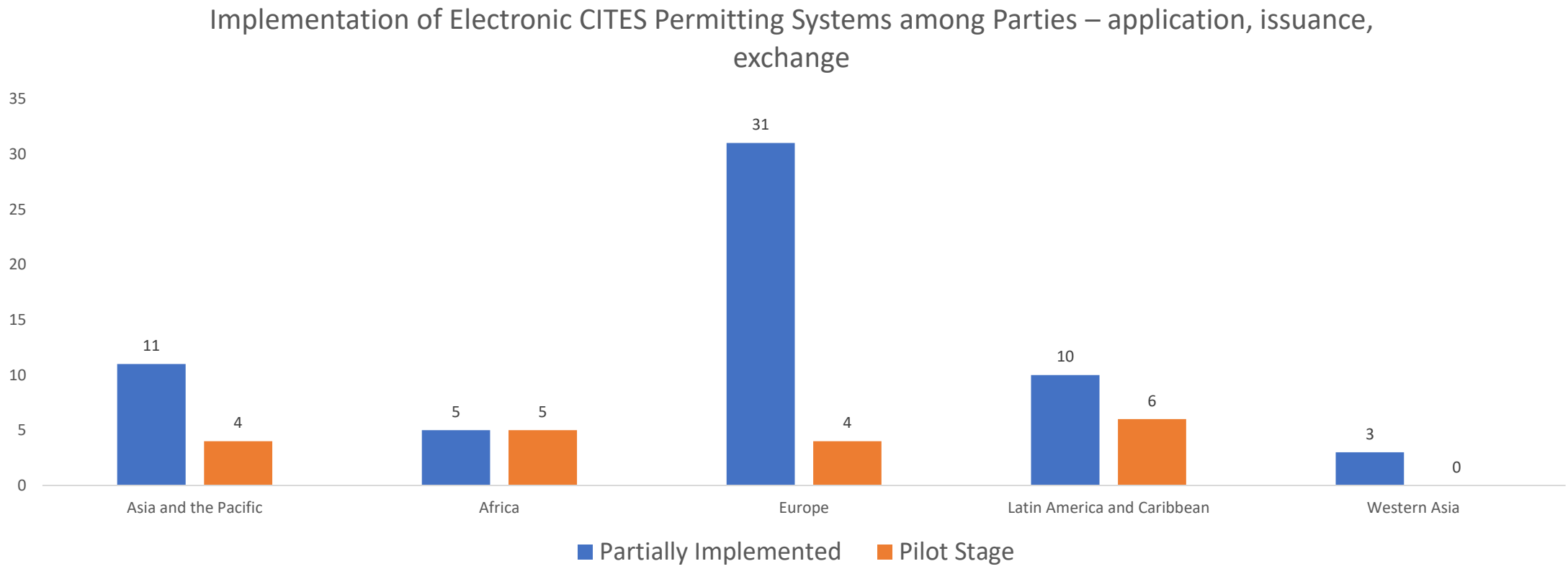
CURRENT STATUS OF ECITES IMPLEMENTATION UN DIGITAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE FACILITATION SURVEY 2025

Only one third of the Parties have implemented this measure – www.untfsurvey.org





CURRENT STATUS OF ECITES IMPLEMENTATION – UN DIGITAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE FACILITATION SURVEY 2025





VARIABILITY IN IMPLEMENTAITON

- Diverse System Development

Electronic CITES permitting systems vary widely, often being underdeveloped or only partially functional across different Parties.

- Lack of Standardization

Absence of uniform standards like the eCITES Toolkit causes redevelopment and increased resource demands in system implementation.

- Inconsistent Reporting Practices

Parties differ in data use for reports; some use import-export data, others rely on permit issuance data, causing discrepancies.

- Interoperability Challenges

Many eCITES systems are not integrated with Customs or National Single Windows.

Limited electronic data exchange capabilities hinder communication and collaboration among CITES Parties globally.

Lack of integration limits real-time data exchange and Customs access.

Use Case – Application, Issuance and Control of CITES-listed Species in Appendix II, Peru (Draft)

- 10 actors
- Up to 25 supporting documents (regulatory and commercial)
- Species-specific documentation
- Chain of custody
- Single-use permit
- Endorsment of permit at border



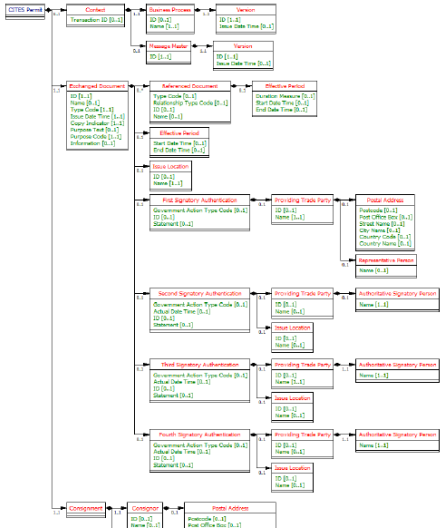
CITES ELECTRONIC PERMITTING TOOLKIT

Version No. 3

Published February 2023



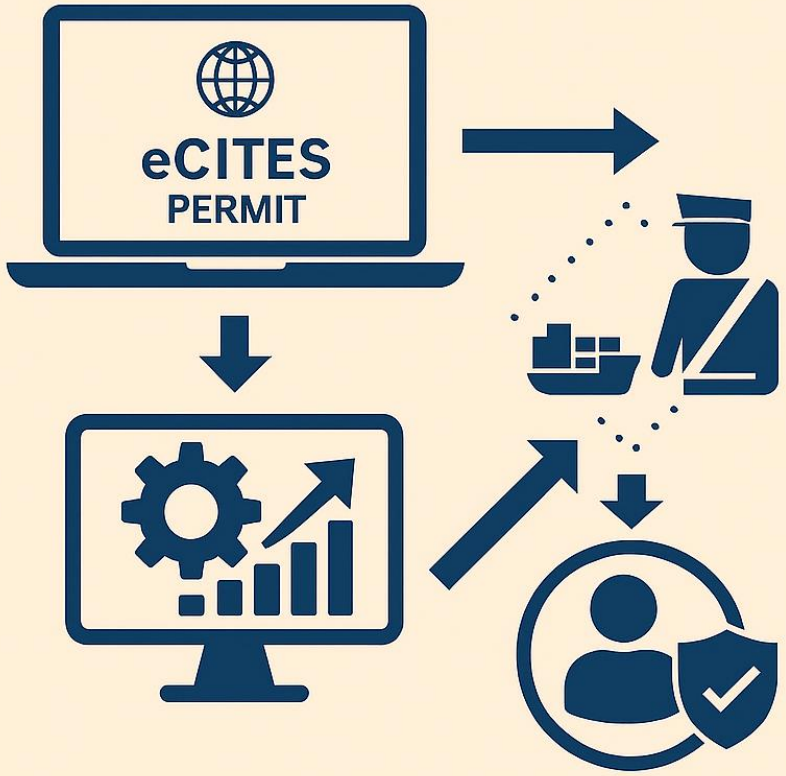
5.2.1.1 Class Diagram



5.2.1.2 Message Structure

Element/Attribute	UN ID	Annotations
UN/CEFACT Permit		
Context	UN01003540	0..1
Transaction ID	UN01003541	0..1
Business Process	UN01003542	1..1
ID	UN01004853	0..1
Name	UN01004854	1..1 CITES Form Reference(s) Business Process Context Value *This element shall be used with the indicated value "CITES PERMITTING". It is recommended to use this value as a trigger for the further processing of received data as required by the business or administrative process if neither the communication information nor the root element information nor the combination of both is be considered to be sufficient. This value should not be used to trigger the technical processing of received CITES permit data.*
Version	UN01004855	1..1
ID	UN01003591	1..1 CITES Form Reference(s) Business Process Context Value *This element shall be used with the indicated value (Currently 1). It is recommended to use this value together with parameter valua text as a trigger for the further processing of received data as required by the business or administrative process if neither the communication information nor the root element information nor the combination of both is be considered to be sufficient. This value will be changed whenever the eCITES data will encorporate more or other process capabilities. This value should not be used to trigger the technical processing of received CITES permit data.*

ECITES IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK



- **Objective:** Streamline CITES permit processes through digital solutions.
- **Components:**
  - Legal and regulatory alignment
  - Technical infrastructure and interoperability
  - Capacity building ard stakeholder engagement
- **Benefits:**
  - Enhanced compliance and transparency
  - Reduced processing time and errors
  - Improved data exchange between authorities
- **Implementation Phases:**
  - Assessment and planning
  - System development andintegration

USE OF 2D BARCODES ON CITES PERMITS/CERTIFICATES

- Data carrier
- Data content
- Recommendation –

  Encrypted Data with Digital Signature



EPIX GUIDANCE

GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR ELECTRONIC PERMIT INFORMATION EXCHANGE (EPIX)

OF CITES PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES



UNCTAD ASYCUDA ECITES SOLUTION

Off-the-shelf solution:

- ePermit, eControl, eReport, eXchange
- Powerful functions: Web access, user profiles, controls & checks, risk management, electronic payment, work flow support ..
- Solution can be configured to national requirements and extended by the country
- Supports international trade and eBusiness standards : WTO, WCO, UNECE, ISO, ..

Easy integration with any Customs and Single Window system: electronic permit exchange and validation, integrated Customs Risk Management, eSPS,..



ASYCUDA eCITES, worldwide (leaflet)

https://ecites.asycuda.org

THANK YOU

Salehin Khan

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cites.org/eng/prog/eCITES

